

THE

TOKEN



HUNTER

A Publication of the

10th Anniversary

National Utah Token Society

Dedicated To Collecting, Recording and Preserving Medals and Tokens

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NEXT MEETING

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

BOURSE NITE

This Meeting will Be
A BOURSE NITE So Bring
All Your Traders!!

For An Old Fashioned Good Time

PRIZES:

PROMPTNESS PRIZE:
Stenacker/12 1/2/S.L.C.

Deluxe Bill./10c/Tooele
Silver Star Bar/5c
Golden Gate Garden/S.L.C./1 beer
Morhrland Merc./5 st. powder
- S & C /Park City/ 5c
Univ. Club/S.L.C./5c
Oscar DeMills/5c/Rockville
Mills Novilty Co.
Cooks & Waiters Ass'n/2 1/2/S.L.C.
\$\$\$ Silver Dollar \$\$\$

NEXT MEETING:

The next club meeting will be held Thursday,
March 26 at 7:15 p.m. at the Redwood Multi-purpose
Center.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

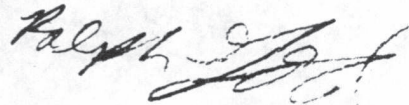
Dear Nuts Club Members,

The weather sure has been nice, I sure hope everyone has had a chance to get out and find great treasures, I haven't been out much yet this year, I can blame that on my wife and our new house. It has been more work than I expected, I thought all we would have to do is pack and move, well I soon found out I was wrong.

I had a speaker all lined up for this month, but when I called to confirm the date with him, he said he was sorry, but he was going out of town for two weeks and he wouldn't be back in time for the meeting. We have rescheduled him for June.

This month we will have our first Boris meeting, so come and share all your treasures and experiences with us.

Sincerely,



NOTES AND DOODLES

EDITORS DESK:

I would like to thank Sarah Lewis for the great article she sent in. I know you'll loved it! Its great to hear what other club members are doing.

It was suggested that we might wear name tags, so that a lot of us who still don't know all your names, know who you are. Instead of, whats' his face over there, or hey you, or whats his name in the blue shirt?



At the last meeting the voting of the new medal was not done. so you folks who haven't turned in your drawings (like me) will have another chance! So be sure to bring them to the meeting!



NOTICE !!

NOTICE !!

For you members who have not payed your 1992' dues. This will be your last issue of the Token Hunter! So get those checks in the mail.



On Nov. 23 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. The contraption, devised by Louis Glass, consisted of an Edison tinfoil phonograph with four listening tubes and a coin slot for each tube. A nickel purchased a couple of minutes of music.

On February 29, 1992, Joe and I, with much anticipation, loaded up our gear and headed towards Price to spend the week-end. The skies were clear blue - all the makings of a perfect day for exploring the old ghost towns that surround the Price area.

After making our usual stop at McDonald's in the mouth of Spanish Fork canyon for our Egg McMuffin breakfast, we were on our way!

Driving down the canyon is always a pleasant drive. You always seem to notice something that you have never seen before. Even after making the trip several times.

At the bottom of the canyon you enter the "used to be" town of Castle Gate. This is where I grew up and it's sad to see how the coal companies have taken over the town. The school, church, company store, post office, confectionary, plus all the houses that once dotted the mountain sides from Royal to the mouth of Indian Canyon have been removed. Progress they say.

We took the time to drive up Spring Canyon because Joe wanted to metal detect in Standardville. The roads were fine at first, but the further we went up the canyon they became very muddy. We decided to turn back. We'll do this another day.

To check into a motel and snoop in the local antiques shops were first on our list. Nothing new in the shops so we continued our journey to the Morhland and Hiawatha area. As we got closer to Hiawatha the landscape became whiter and whiter-- SNOW---How can this be!! Oh well, we're here now. The dirt roads off the highway leading to our favorite digging places around Hiawatha were snow packed or muddy. Hopeless!! On to Morhland. The gravel road to Morhland is very well kept. We reached our final destination and had to walk (wade) in about three inches of sticky mud. Not a pretty site. We dug around a little and decided to give it up. On the drive back to Price several deer darted into the sage brush. This is a common site in this area.

We decided to take in a movie for our Saturday night excitement. Our choice was "Fievel Goes West" or "Hook". We chose "Hook". I don't know if we made the right decision but I figure the money goes back into the community.

Sunday we drove up Nine-Mile Canyon outside of Wellington. The roads were VERY muddy. This canyon has several Indian Petroglyphs to see. We turned back and went to Helper. Joe metal detected around Helper Jr. High School. No great finds. A few childhood memories for me.

Even though we didn't find any "treasure" our little get-a-way was not a total loss. We had a delicious Mexican dinner, beautiful scenery, peace and quiet moments, and we managed to get away from the city for the week-end.

It was well worth it!

Sarah Lewis

Joe and I enjoy going to Ophir for the day. We can be there in less than an hour and dig until the sun goes down. We usually go there at least one weekend day a month. We haven't metal detected very much but we enjoy digging and screening the dirt. We always seem to find some marbles. We can find anywhere from 30 to only 2. A few silver dimes and pennies have been our find.

The area is known for the eagles that seem to enjoy the big cottonwood trees that are plentiful in the surrounding area. They perch in the high branches and are a sight to see. Something that you do not see everyday. Deer inhabit this area also. They can be seen bounding over the sage brush.

If you need a quick little get-a-way, pack a lunch and go explore Ophir. You might not find the Mother Lode, but guaranteed, you will feel more relaxed after spending the day away from all the noise and confusion of the city.

Sarah Lewis



FROM THE ATTIC Collectables

Treasure

By Stephen P. Alpert

SCARCE TOKENS MORE VALUABLE THAN EVER

Tokens and medals have steadily risen in value the past few years, unaffected by the current economic recession. The scarce and desirable tokens, and there are hundreds of thousands of different ones, have increased in value dramatically. However, the very common, less desirable tokens have gone up little in value because they are so common.

Although the number of token collectors is relatively small compared to other collecting hobbyists, token collectors are very enthusiastic about the little pieces of metal they're so eager to obtain. It's a hobby one easily gets addicted to. And it's exciting, as one never knows what surprising, previously unknown token will be discovered next.

Because the common tokens are so numerous and are so frequently encountered, the scarcer tokens become all the more desirable and valuable. I'd estimate that the most common 5 percent of all the different tokens comprises, in numbers, 95 percent of all known tokens. Most of the scarcer tokens are unique, or just a few of each are known. I can't think of any other hobby where it's so easy to obtain the only known specimen of an item.

As there are so many different tokens, they have been divided into dozens of categories. Examples are Civil War, tax, transportation, coal mining, amusement machine, military, political, advertising, Masonic, dairy, merchant trade tokens, plus related items such as dog tags and watch fobs. Collectors are continually publishing books cataloging such groups of tokens. Whenever a group of tokens gathers a large following

and a reference book is published, the value of the tokens rise steadily with time.

Collecting merchant trade tokens (or "good fors") by state is very popular. Some people try to collect every different trade token from their state; others collect just one token from each town or place name. The value of merchant tokens depends on the type of merchant (those of saloons are valuable if the word "saloon" is on the token) or the geographic area they are from. Tokens from certain states are much in demand (Alaska, Hawaii, Arizona, and New Mexico are a few examples). Those from ghost towns or old West towns are worth more. Scarce and rare old trade tokens from such states may be worth up to several hundred dollars apiece.

But the most valuable merchant tokens are the territorials: the pre-statehood Western tokens. This is generally indicated on the token by an abbreviation: A.T. for Arizona Territory, I.T. for Indian Territory (Oklahoma), D.T. for Dakota Territory, W.T. for Washington Territory, and so forth. Most of these tokens are now worth several hundred dollars each, although some I.T. tokens are common and worth \$10 to \$20 each.

Even rarer are territorial trade tokens from Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Collectors may pay \$2,500 each for those in decent condition, if "territory" is mentioned on the token. Beware, though, of recent fantasy territorial tokens.

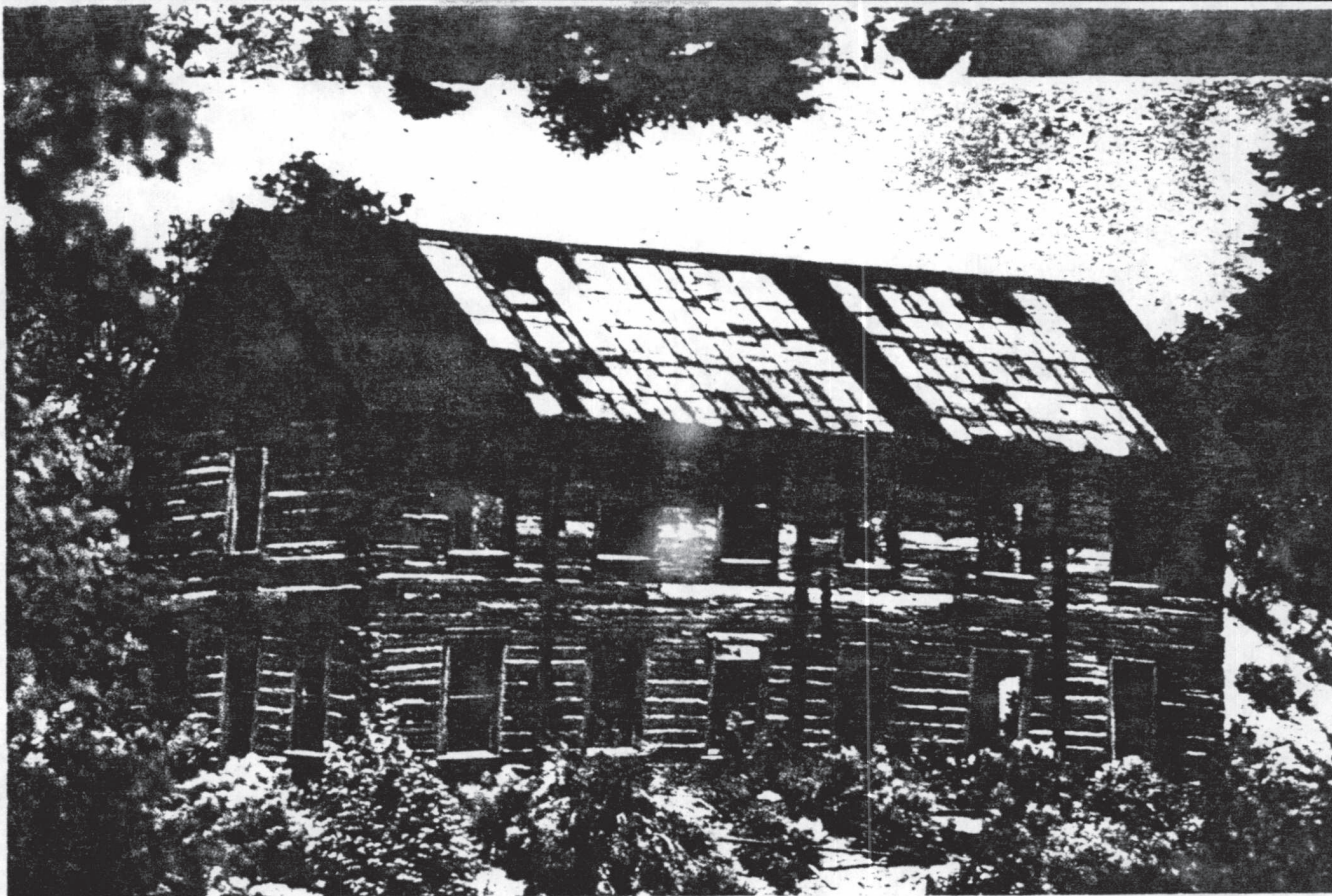
Fortunately for treasure hunters, the condition of rare merchant tokens isn't too critical to most collectors because they are so rare. As long as

the token is legible enough to read or identify, even eyesores can be very valuable.

The rarest tokens in some other categories have broken the \$1,000 level, and are approaching \$3,000 each: Civil War and transportation tokens, for example; or the \$100 mark (slot machine, tax tokens). Rare tokens of other groups, once worth small change, are now worth \$10 to \$50 each (dog tags, telephone tokens, parking tokens). These values are about 10 to 15 times what they were a decade ago.

As tokens and medals are so diverse and numerous, probably running into millions of different ones, it is very hard for non-collectors to evaluate what they have. There probably never will be reference catalogs covering everything in detail, as there are for coins and stamps. Only after years of experience with tokens can one distinguish the rare from the common, the valuable from the junk, and modern copies or fantasy tokens from true old tokens.

[Editor's Note: Stephen Alpert has served as president of the California Association of Token Collectors and has authored many books on tokens, including his newly released Tokens And Medals, a long overdue encyclopedic work for people who know nothing about the subject. He has also served as a technical consultant for our staff for over ten years and is willing to extend his expertise directly to readers. Just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for his reply, along with your question or description of tokens and medals you've found. Write to Stephen P. Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066.] □



Wealthy visitors to Jacob City used to spend the night in this hotel.

Utah's Forgotten Bonanza

By Jim Stewart

Spread across the hills and canyons of the Oquirrh Mountains southwest of Salt Lake City is the once-flourishing Rush Valley Mining District. The district was home to thousands of miners working its many rich mines. The towns boasted not only the usual saloons and gambling houses, but stores, schools, and even a newspaper devoted to the miners' interests.

Even with its vast resources, the Rush Valley District could not escape the inevitable "boom and bust" cycle. The invention of the cyanide process slowed the decline, but one by one the towns were abandoned. Even Mercur, at its peak one of the largest towns in Utah, saw its mines close in 1933.

Hundreds of miles of roads run through deep dry washes and cling to the sides of mountains, connecting the ghost towns to the mines that made them rich. Miners' cabins can still be seen high on the steep canyon walls. Certainly this is an ideal area in which to pursue a weekend or a lifetime of relic hunting.

In 1862, General Connor and his California Volunteers marched into Utah. As well as an officer, Connor was an enthusiastic mining promoter. The site of the Army's encampment was in Rush Valley, an area bordering on the dry, barren, sagebrush-covered slopes of the Oquirrh Mountains. Gold had been discovered in Bingham Canyon to the northeast, and the area held great promise of wealth.

Not wanting to miss such an opportunity, Connor encouraged his men to search the nearby mountains. Soon the hills and canyons were swarming with hopeful soldier-prospectors. Connor himself filed a claim and founded the first non-Mormon settlement in Utah. He named the town Stockton after his home in California.

In the early 1870s, the Rush Valley Mining District was formed. Mines and towns were rapidly appearing. South of Stockton, Jacob City grew to a population of 300. A mile south of Jacob City, a plentiful supply of water enabled the town of Ophir to reach 6,000. Mercur,

largest of the mining towns, is estimated to have topped 12,000 before burning in 1902.

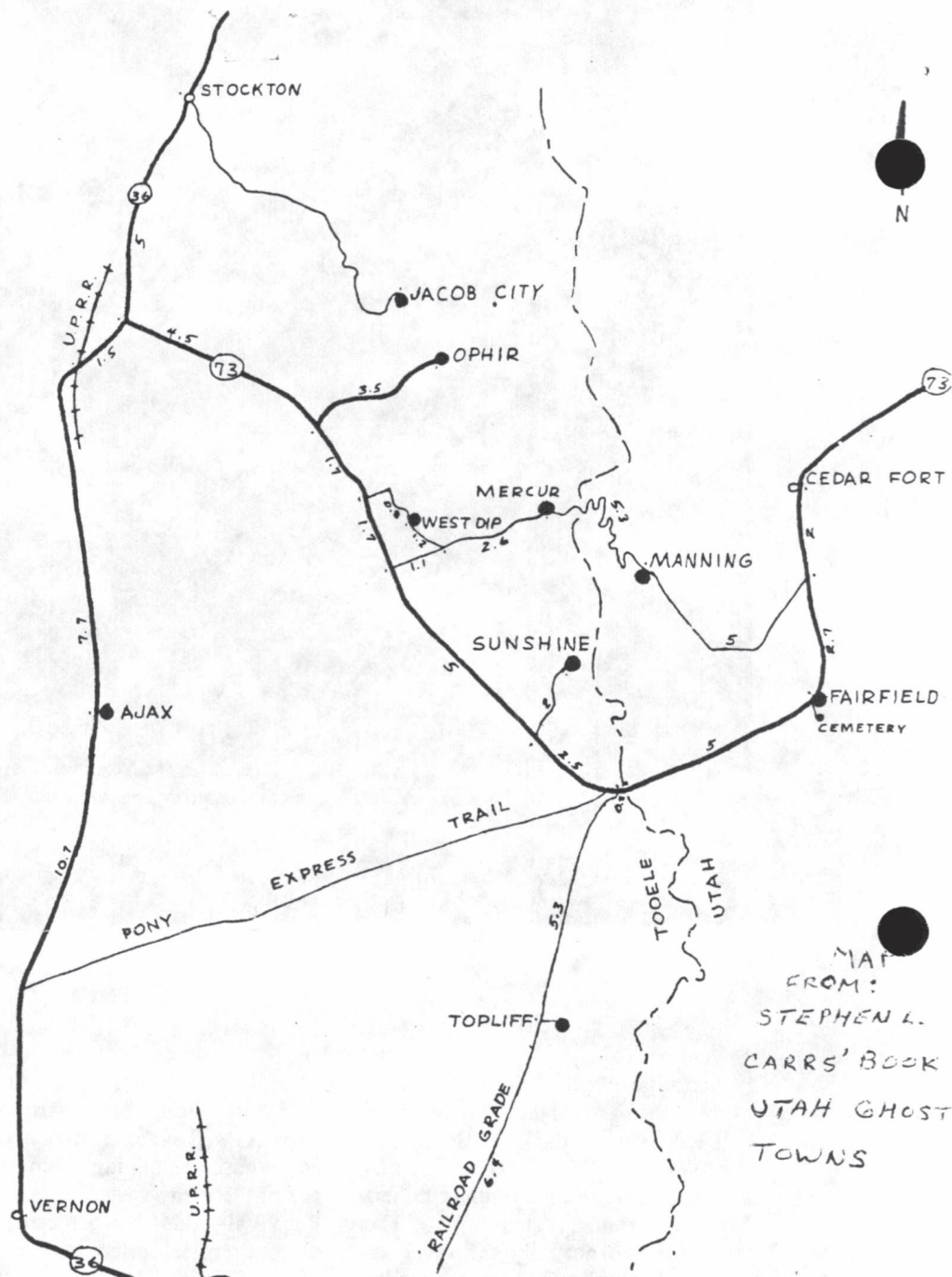
Today, the only operating mine is an open-pit operation at the old Mercur site. All the rest of the mines are now monuments to past prosperity.

Since the Rush Valley area is crossed by miles of roads linking towns that had populations of hundreds, it presents a rare opportunity for the adventurous relic hunter.

The area is isolated and can be dangerous—not a place for small children or careless adults. Some roads have not been maintained for 100 years, and great care must be exercised when using them. Also, although the mine shafts close to the main highway have been fenced in, once you venture into the back country it is not unusual to come across an unfenced vertical shaft going straight down for hundreds of feet.

A trip to this country does take a bit more preparation than an outing to hunt coins in the city park, but the potential

While walking along an old wagon



Nearby, I found another case and

Maybe the Winchester cartridge cases were just the relics of a deer hunt, and the lock the result of a lost key. But then again, maybe not. It's the *maybes* that keep adventure in my weekend searches.

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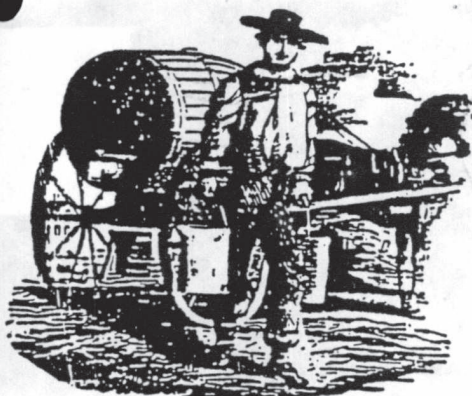
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